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Administrator,

The ORD and Region 6 2019 Small Drinking Water Systems Meeting will be held [ HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://0" ] in Addison, Texas. This workshop is follow-up to one of the suggestions that was made at our August 2018 meeting with Region 6 states and Oklahoma tribes at the EPA lab in Ada, Oklahoma. The meeting will feature presentations from ORD scientists on a variety of topics related to small drinking water systems. Becky Keogh, President of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) and Director of Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, will provide the states' perspective on the challenges and science needs of small drinking water systems.

### **Hot Issues**

#### **ORD Scientist is a 2019 prestigious Arthur S. Flemming Award Winner**

ORD's own Dr. Rebecca Dodder has been selected as one of only 12 employees from across the federal government for a prestigious Arthur S. Flemming Award. Dr. Dodder is being recognized for her work to improve understanding of the links between the production and use of energy and their full impacts on public health and the environment. Her innovative thinking has led to real-world approaches to addressing complex energy challenges. She has also dedicated her time and considerable creativity to sharing her work and serving as EPA ambassador for clean air research to students and local communities. "Generate," an educational board game Rebecca developed, turns exploring the complexities of balancing energy costs and environmental impacts from an intimidating challenge into in a fun and engaging learning opportunity. Generate has now been used by tens of thousands of students and educators across the globe.

#### **Protection of Human Research Subjects**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, following FIFRA section 25(a)(3), EPA delivered the draft final rule, entitled Protection of Human Research Subjects to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its Office of Pest Management Policy. Written comments from USDA must be submitted to EPA within 15 days. Copies were also distributed to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry in the U.S. Senate and to the Committee on Agriculture U.S. House of Representatives.

#### **Department of State Support**

ORD provided scientific and technical support to the U.S. Department of State, on the differences between the World Health Organization's AirQ+ software tool for health risk assessment of air pollution and U.S. EPA's Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program – Community Edition for the development of an overview document for Embassy staff to facilitate discussions with local governments on tools available to evaluate the potential implications of improving air quality on public health.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Update to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Blood Lead Reference Value**

Today ORD is participating in an interagency meeting to discuss CDC's proposed update to the blood lead reference value (BLRV), which is defined as the 97.5<sup>th</sup> percentile of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey's (NHANES) blood lead distribution in children.

#### **Research Update: Groundwater Sampling in Massachusetts**

As part of a cross-ORD collaboration with Region 1 and USGS, ORD will collect groundwater samples in Falmouth, Massachusetts during the first week of June. Region 1 is working under the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) to address the impacts of coastal nitrogen and USGS is partnering on groundwater research. As part of the SNEP, monitoring wells have been installed in the sampling area. This area was chosen for monitoring because sewage disposal in the area is being converted from septic tanks to centralized treatment. The researchers are investigating contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) such as pharmaceuticals, PFAS, endocrine disrupting chemicals and microorganisms. Three rounds of sampling have already been conducted from monitoring wells in the watershed before and during the centralized treatment conversion. The June 2019 sampling and the sampling planned for next year will provide data on the time needed for CECs to decrease in groundwater when sources of contamination are eliminated

#### **Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Interviews (May 1-31)**

EPA offices (HQ and Regions) may interview ASPPH Environmental Health Fellows for fall placement during the month of May. EPA established the partnership with ASPPH in 2003 to prepare the future public health workforce by providing masters and doctoral-level hands-on training experiences for recent public health graduates. Since its inception, 126 early-career public health professionals have trained at EPA through this program. For more information, contact [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:Michaud.jayne@epa.gov"](mailto:Michaud.jayne@epa.gov) ].

#### **Research Collaboration with Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)**

Next week ORD collaborating with OSRTI on measurements of lead and arsenic in soils at some of Florida's Superfund sites. OSRTI is visiting ORD scientists in Gulf Breeze, Florida, to work on an XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence) Analyzer, which uses a non-destructive analytical technique to determine the elemental composition of soil and sediment samples by measuring the fluorescent X-ray emitted from a sample. This equipment will aid studies of lead and arsenic bioavailability at Superfund sites by allowing rapid measurements of total lead and arsenic in contaminated soils.